



**Arlington Historic District Commissions
Final and Approved Minutes – February 23, 2023
Conducted via Remote Participation on ZOOM**

Commissioners Present: C. Barry, B. Cohen, B. LaBau, S. Makowka, C. Tee, J. Worden

Commissioners Not Present: D. Baldwin, P. Chaves, A. Johnson, S. Savarese

Guests: C. Visocchi, A. Matte, T. Lamont

1. **AHDC Meeting Opens 8:00pm – S Makowka called to order at 8:03pm and advised meeting being recorded.**
2. **Approval of draft minutes from January 26, 2023; J. Worden moved approval with “Fore court” corrected, seconded by C. Barry. Roll call and unanimous approval**
3. **Appointment of Alternate Commissioners; Mt Gilboa – Makowka and Cohen appointed**
4. **Communications.**
 - a. **S. Makowka advised that the Town has moved over email server to Outlook and it’s causing some problems. Also met with Historical and Cultural Resources Working Group and 2 projects wrapping up – documentation of town owned properties, MHDC forms updated and documented as well as archeological survey – both being done under CPA grants. 0 Ravine Street was approved over a year ago and nothing has moved forward and standard approval form is for a period of 1 year and if things haven’t moved forward in a year and no substantial changes to the application we approve the extension of the certificates for another year. He wanted to request authority that if everything is exactly same as approved previously are they ok with him granting an extension – consensus.**
 - b. **B. Cohen reported that 108 Pleasant St. may be doing something but stickers are still on the windows and all in town are aware that nothing can be finalized until we agree.**
 - c. **J. Worden inquired about the litigation dismissal at 0 Ravine Street.**
5. **New Business**
 - a. **Formal Hearing for 147 Westminster Ave. (Visocchi) for replacement of 16 metal casement windows. C. Visocchi gave presentation. Applicant would prefer to use double hung windows. Replacing metal casements with wood windows having exactly same window dimensions. Casings are wood 2 over 1. The new Jeld-wen windows will be a large improvement. 3 ½ wood clad casing around the windows. The picture window will be replaced by three double hung windows across. There is a house down the street already approved and it looks nice. S. Makowka has no problem, it’s consistent with what’s there now. J. Worden moved approval,, B. Cohen seconded for Jeld-wen double hung windows. Roll Call – Barry – y, Worden – y, Cohen – y, C. Tee – y, B. Labau – y, S. Makowka - y; Unanimous approval. Monitor appointed B. Cohen**

- b. Informal Hearing re: 72 Crescent Hill Ave. (Lamont) for garage replacement options. Tara and Jake Lamont attended to get ideas on what they can and can't do on their garage. This is at the end of the driveway and way back from the street. It's a tin/metal garage and they would like to replace with a wood garage to match the house. They have plenty of land and are at least 25-30 feet off each property line. B. LaBau asked if they are going to get a pre-fab one or are they designing it? He said the garage doors are very important and that is important. You can get overhead ones that look like old fashioned ones and will look nice. Starting from scratch use similar pitch to the roof that the house has if possible. Common theme is that it be sympathetic to the existing structure and that it fits in with the main house. There are many examples on Jason, Maple, Lowell and throughout the Districts. Will come back later with application and more details.
- c. Informal Hearing re: 135 Pleasant St. (Irvington Condo Assoc) request for front step handrails. A. Matte gave presentation for Irvington Condo Association. Looking to add a handrail for safety at building. Plan to ideally add on both sides for those few steps. It will have to be a certain height – it will meet code. Wrought iron would be most appropriate or even maybe bronze. B. LaBau said often they didn't have railings but when they did they had decorative wrought iron. The stairs inside have rails and they seemed to be heavy brass type of railing. A bronze handrail is beefier but the wrought iron would also be consistent with this style. The benches are not original to the building (added 15-20 years ago) and they feel safety comes first and depending on how this gets built they may need to be in front of instead of on the steps. If the railings interfere the benches will need to be moved. J. Worden said you will want to be sure this railing is elaborate in style, as elegant as the benches. Cassidy Brothers was one company, DeAngelis Iron Works was another. Boston Metal Works had done some decorative railings in Cambridge. They will be on the 3/23 agenda for a formal hearing.

6. Old Business

- a. Report from Streetscape sub-committee – Town budget is being done for 2024 and Steve is suggesting that officers get together and have a planning meeting as a way to organize ourselves to feel proactive rather than reactive to build support around town.
- b. Modification of Design Guidelines (Little Libraries, Below Grade Windows) – We need to get working on this again. Maybe have a Q&A session to increase awareness of what the Commission does
- c. Joint AHDC/AHC Meeting – Carol to Pick a date
- d. Election of AHDC Officers
 - Chair – Steve Makowka – C. Barry nominated, B. Cohen seconded
 - Vice-Chair – Beth Cohen – J. Worden nominated, seconded by C. Barry
 - Clerk – John Worden – B. Cohen nominated, seconded by C. Barry
 - Roll Call with five (5) affirmative votes and with S. Makowka abstaining on principal

7. Meeting Adjourns – 857pm Roll call with unanimous vote to adjourn